

Site 42SA24760 (Figure 5)

Location and environment

This newly recorded site is a small ceramic trench kiln, located at UTM (Zone 12) coordinates 651260 E / 415000 N, at the north edge of the survey parcel. It is situated on the southward facing north side of a small, rocky drainage near the canyon rim. Site elevation is 53100 feet. The ground slope on site is approximately 10° to the south, though the general area surrounding the site slopes more gently to the southeast. Local surface sediments are shallow, residual and aeolian with numerous rock inclusions and outcropping sandstone bedrock. Vegetation is dominated by climax juniper forest up to ~5 m high, with very little understory. Surface disturbance indicative of seismic exploration is evident within about 70 m to the west of the site.

Description and interpretation

Site 42SA24760 is a rectangular, upright slab-lined feature with associated ash stain and burned rock scatter, located in the north edge of a small drainage. The feature is defined by a series of upright and semi-upright sandstone slabs in a discontinuous alignment that outlines a rectanguloid space approximately 1.3 m long (wnw-ese) by 1.0 - 1.25 m wide. An ash stain with oxidized and sooted sandstone fragments extends approximately 2 m downslope southeast from the southeast corner of the feature. The feature and associated ash stain are situated in the southward-sloping, north side of a shallow, rocky drainage, with its projected southwest corner adjacent to or in the stream channel. No associated artifacts were observed on or near the site. The form, size and placement of the feature and associated ash stain are typical of late Pueblo II - Pueblo III ceramic trench kilns that have been investigated in southwest Colorado and in the Elk Ridge area (e.g Fuller 1984, Helm 1973).

Significance

Though small and unimpressive, 42SA24760 is deemed significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under the Department of the Interior's criterion D. There is a high likelihood that excavation would yield information sufficient to determine the feature's age and function. If it is a kiln, it has the potential to contribute to our understanding of ceramic production technology in this part of the Northern San Juan region. If it is not a kiln, it has the potential to broaden our understanding of the variability through time and across space in the various functions served by these kinds of features.

Recommendations

This site can be easily avoided, located as it is on (possibly outside of) the northern boundary of the lease parcel. It is recommended that the site be avoided if possible. If avoidance is impossible, excavation and full data recovery and documentation are recommended. In order to

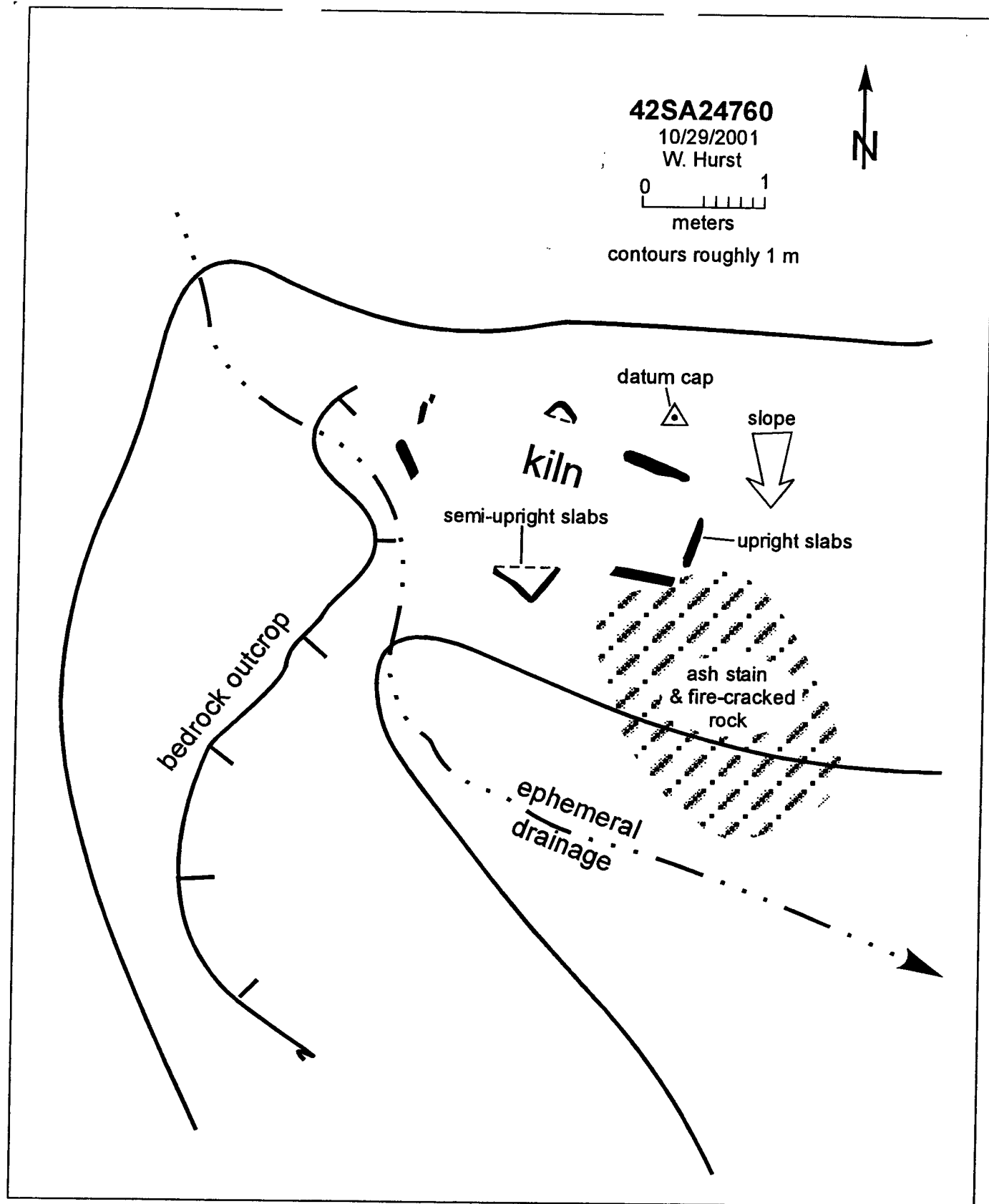


Figure 5. 42SA24760 site map

facilitate avoidance, a protective perimeter around the west, south and east sides has been marked with blue plastic flagging.

Isolated Finds

Seven isolated finds (IFs) were documented within the survey parcel, outside the boundaries of the recorded sites. These include two isolated ash stains with no associated artifacts; two isolated potsherds; a cluster of two sherds and two chert flakes; a chert scraper with one associated chert flake; and a siltstone or fine mudstone core. Further details on these finds are presented in Table 2. None of the isolated finds is deemed significant enough to warrant further investigation.

Summary and Conclusions

Intensive pedestrian survey of a 5.3-acre parcel of Utah State Institutional Trust Lands on Alkali Point was conducted by Winston Hurst of Abajo Archaeology for Sean Murphy in connection with Murphy's application to lease the parcel for development as a commercial rock quarry. The survey resulted in the identification and documentation of one small archaeological site and seven isolated finds. The recorded site is a typical late Pueblo II - Pueblo III period, slab-lined trench-style ceramic firing kiln. A second, larger site, 42SA17713, also lies within the bounds of the present survey, but was recorded and reported by a previous survey of an adjacent parcel. The isolated finds include two isolated ash stains with no associated artifacts; two isolated potsherds; a cluster of two sherds and two chert flakes; a chert scraper with one associated chert flake; and a siltstone or fine mudstone core. Ceramic styles attest to usage during the late Pueblo II and Pueblo III periods, between about A.D. 1000/1050 and the late 1200s. Surface indications in and around the survey parcel suggest that this locality was used seasonally for production of ceramics, although excavation would be required to confirm or refute that interpretation.

Both the previously recorded site (42SA17713) and the newly recorded site (42SA24760) are deemed significant and should be either avoided or, if avoidance is impossible, subjected to mitigative excavation. A no-traffic protective area has been flagged around both sites to facilitate avoidance. None of the isolated finds is deemed significant, and there is no archaeological reason to deny clearance outside the flagged site areas.

Table: Archaeological Sites and Isolated Finds

<u>Site/IF #</u>	<u>Location</u> (UTM Zone 12)	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Cultural</u> <u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Significant?</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
42SA17713	651160 E 4149975 N	climax pinyon- juniper E slope	late Pueblo II, Pueblo III	Kiln? 15 m diameter concentration of burned slabs, ash and ceramics	yes	avoid or excavate
42SA24760	651260 E 4150000 N	juniper-pinyon woodland, gentle north slope in small drainage	Unknown, probably late Pueblo II or Pueblo III	kiln	yes	avoid or excavate
IF1	654184 E 4149970 N	open juniper woodland, no understory, gentle east slope	late Pueblo II	potsherd, Mancos Black- on-white bowl, Dogoszhi style with wide framing line, paint overfired/sintered. Located ca. 20 m northeast of and adjacent to small drainage draing from , with which it is clearly associated.	No	none

IF2	654181 E 4149959 N	open juniper woodland, no understory, gentle east slope	unknown	ash stain with oxidized sandstone bits, surficial, ca. 2 m diam. No associated artifacts. Appr. 23 m southeast (54°) from 42SA11713, with which it might be associated, if it is cultural and not natural.	No	None
IF3	654216 E 4149909 N	open juniper woodland, no understory, gentle east slope	Pueblo II?	Two ceramic jar sherds (San Juan White Ware, no paint) and 2 crude secondary flakes of pale chert from decomposed local conglomerate pebble, in a 5 m diameter area	No	None

IF4	654216 E 4149909 N	open juniper woodland, no understory, gentle east slope	unknown	1 concave-convex scraper (FigureXXXX), unifacially flaked along one edge of an otherwise natural and unmodified fragment of a cream-tan chert nodule. Dorsal side has nodule cortex, ventral side is ancient cleavage surface with a large natural concavity and no percussion bulb. 6 x 4 x 1.5 cm	No	None
IF5	654208 E 4149888 N	5 m from canyon rim on thin soil with bedrock exposures, open juniper woodland	unknown, possibly natural	1 lithic core, large, informal, grayish-green Morrison or Burro Canyon silicified siltstone or fine mudstone, multi- directional flake scars. 11.5 x 8 x 8 cm	No	None
IF6	654138 E 4149815 N	at foot of low scarp on north end of bench that extends south from survey parcel	Pueblo III	1 potsherd, McElmo Black-on-white rim sherd from a mug or olla neck	No	None

IF7	654138 E 4149815 N	on north side of a small bench in the talus slope, midway down canyon slope	Unknown, possibly natural	Ash stain with burned rocks, shallow, 3 m x 2 m, adjacent to south side of small wash. Rocks in stain not noticably different from those on surrounding slope. No associated artifacts. Possible deflated kiln, but possiby natural.	No	None
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References Cited

Fuller, Steven L.

- 1984 Late Anasazi Pottery Kilns in the Yellowjacket District Southwestern Colorado. CASA Papers No. 4. Complete Archaeological Services Associates, Cortez, Colorado.

Helm, Claudia

- 1973 The Kiln Site. *In Highway U-95 Archeology: Comb Wash to Grand Flat*, assembled and edited by Gardiner F. Dalley, pp. 209-221.. Special Report, Department of Anthropology, University of Utah.

Hurst, Winston B.

- 2001 Cultural Resources Inventory of a Proposed Commercial Rock Quarry Site on Alkali Point, San Juan County, Utah (SITLA materials lease permit ML48768). Abajo Archaeology, Bluff, Utah.
- 1992 Previous Archaeological Research and Regional Prehistory. Chapter III in *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluative Testing Along SRk-262, Utah-Colorado State Line to Montezuma Creek, Navajo Nation Lands, San Juan County, Utah*, prepared by Mark C. Bond, William E. Davis, Winston B. Hurst and

Lipe, William D., Mark D. Varien and Richard H. Wilshusen, editors

- 1999 Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Southern Colorado River Basin. Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver

IMACS SITE FORM

Murphy copy

PART A - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

1. STATE NO.: 42SA24760
2. AGENCY NO.:
3. TEMP NO.:
4. STATE: Utah COUNTY: San Juan
5. PROJECT: Sean Murphy Alkali Point rock quarry survey #2 (SITLA materials lease ML48768)
6. REPORT NO.: U01-AS0726s
7. SITE NAME/PROPERTY NAME:
8. CLASS: ☒ PREHISTORIC ☐ HISTORIC ☐ PALEONTOLOGIC
☐ ETHNOGRAPHIC
9. SITE TYPE: ceramic kiln
10. ELEVATION: 5305 ft.
11. UTM GRID: Zone 12 651260 m E 4150000 m N
12. ☐ NW ☐ 1/4 OF ☐ SE ☐ 1/4 OF ☐ NW ☐ 1/4 OF SECTION ☐ 16 ☐ T. ☐ 38 ☐ S. R. ☐ 24 ☐ E.
13. MERIDIAN: Salt Lake
14. MAP REFERENCE: McCracken Springs, Utah (7.5' prov. 1989)
15. AERIAL PHOTO:
16. LOCATION AND ACCESS: Thirteen miles southeast of Blanding on Alkali Point. Follow San Juan County southeast from Blanding across Mustang Mesa and Alkali Wash onto Alkali Point, continue east appr. 2.5 miles, turn right (southeast) onto bladed county road, proceed 1.5 miles to point where road intersects powerline at turn in powerline. Turn right, follow dirt road for appr. 1.3 miles to fork in road. Take left (east) fork, drive ~60 m / 200+ ft onto top of ridge. Park, walk east ~ 185 m to site, in north side of small, rocky drainage.
17. LAND OWNER: State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
18. FEDERAL ADMIN. UNITS:
19. LOCATION OF CURATED MATERIALS: none
20. SITE DESCRIPTION: Site 42SA24760 is a rectangular, upright slab-lined feature with associated ash stain and FCR scatter, located in the north edge of a small drainage. The feature is defined by a series of upright and semi-upright sandstone slabs in a discontinuous alignment that outlines a rectanguloid space approximately 1.3 m long (wnw-ese) by 1.0 - 1.25 m wide. An ash stain with oxidized and sooted sandstone fragments extends approximately 2 m downslope southeast from the southeast corner of the feature. The feature and associated ash stain are situated in the southward-sloping, north side of a shallow, rocky drainage, with its projected southwest corner adjacent to or in the stream channel. No associated artifacts were observed on or near the site. The form, size and placement of the feature and associated ash stain are typical of late Pueblo II - Pueblo III ceramic trench kilns that have been investigated in southwest Colorado and in the Elk Ridge area.
The site is situated in juniper woodland near the rim of a minor unnamed tributary canyon of Alkali Wash, on the west side of Alkali Point.
21. SITE CONDITION: ☐ EXCELLENT (A) ☒ GOOD (B) ☐ FAIR (C)
☐ POOR (D)
22. IMPACT AGENT(S): natural erosion (ER)
23. NAT. REGISTER STATUS: ☒ SIGNIFICANT (C) ☐ NON-SIGNIFICANT (D) ☐ UNEVALUATED (Z)
JUSTIFY: Eligible for NR under criteria C ("... embody[s] the distinctive characteristics of a type, period [etc.]...") and D (is "likely to yield information important in prehistory or

history.”). Kiln sites in this region are poorly studied. This site has the potential to contribute to our understanding of changing ceramic production processes and technology in this part of the northern San Juan area.

- 24. **PHOTOS:** 2/1-4
- 25. **RECORDED BY:** Winston Hurst
- 26. **SURVEY ORGANIZATION:** Abajo Archaeology
- 27. **ASSISTING CREW MEMBERS:** None
- 28. **SURVEY DATE:** 10/29/2001

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: ☒ PART B ☐ PART C ☐ PART E
☒ TOPO MAP ☐ ARTIFACT/FEATURE SKETCH ☒ SITE SKETCH
☐ CONTINUATION SHEETS ☒ PHOTOS ☐ OTHER:

PART A - ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

- 29. **SLOPE:** [10] (DEGREES) **ASPECT** [180] (DEGREES)
- 30. **DISTANCE TO PERMANENT WATER:** [4] X 100 Meters
TYPE OF WATER SOURCE: [x] SPRING/SEEP (A) ☐ STREAM/RIVER (B) ☐
LAKE (C) ☐ **OTHER (D)**
NAME OF WATER SOURCE: Unnamed small spring 400 m southwest; poor, intermittent
seeps in small canyon ~100 m to east
- 31. **GEOGRAPHIC UNIT:** Blanding Basin
- 32. **TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION**
PRIMARY LANDFORM: mesa (C)
SECONDARY LANDFORM: ephemeral wash (4)
DESCRIBE: in the sloping side of a small drainage, near the rim of a small side canyon on
Alkali Point
- 33. **ON-SITE DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT:** Residual (U)
DESCRIPTION OF SOIL: sandy loam with numerous sandstone and pebble conglomerate
inclusions. Bedrock outcrops adjacent to west and south edges of site..
- 34. **VEGETATION**
A. LIFE ZONE: Upper Sonoran (E)
B. COMMUNITY - PRIMARY ON-SITE: Pinyon-juniper woodland (H)
SECONDARY ON-SITE:
SURROUNDING SITE: Pinyon-juniper
DESCRIBE: Area is covered by climax pinyon-juniper forest with little understory. Juniper
dominates, with Mormon tea, narrow-leaf yucca and snakeweed occurring commonly
immediately around the site. Pinyon pine, cliffrose and squawbush occur occasionally. Pinyon-
juniper woodland dominates the general area.
- 35. **MISCELLANEOUS TEXT:**
- 36. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**

PART B - PREHISTORIC SITES

1. **SITE TYPE:** ceramic kiln
2. **CULTURE - CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** late Pueblo II- Pueblo III (P4)
DATING METHOD: architectural cross-dating (L)
DESCRIBE: Size and arrangement of slabs, and associated ash stain, are typical features of late PII - PIII ceramic firing kilns in the northern San Juan area.
3. **SITE DIMENSIONS:** [5] M by [3] M AREA = [12] SQ M
4. **SURFACE COLLECTION/METHOD:** None
5. **ESTIMATED DEPTH OF CULTURAL FILL:** 20+ cm
HOW ESTIMATED (IF TESTED, SHOW LOCATION ON SITE MAP): based on normal depth of similar features
6. **EXCAVATION STATUS:** [] EXCAVATED (A) [] TESTED (B)
[X] UNEXCAVATED (C)
TESTING METHOD:
7. **SUMMARY OF ARTIFACTS AND DEBRIS:**
Burned rock and ash concentration (CB)
DESCRIBE: No associated artifacts
8. **LITHIC TOOLS:** None observed
9. **LITHIC DEBITAGE - ESTIMATED QUANTITY:** (A=none, B=1-9, C=10-25, D=25-100, E=100-500, F=500+, Z=unk.) None
MATERIAL TYPE:
FLAKING STAGES: (0) NOT PRESENT (1) RARE (2) COMMON (3) DOMINANT
[0] DECORTICATION [0] SECONDARY [0] TERTIARY [0] SHATTER
[0] CORE
10. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (ALL LITHICS):** 0
11. **CERAMIC ARTIFACTS:**
TYPE
DESCRIBE: No ceramics observed
12. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (CERAMICS):** 0
13. **NON-ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):**
1 Burned stone concentration (FC)
DESCRIBE: oxidized and sooted sandstone chunks scattered around kiln feature and in associated ash stain.
14. **ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):**
MATERIAL TYPE
1 stone (B) Kiln (AL)
DESCRIBE: Kiln feature is a rectangular area defined by a series of upright and semi-upright slabs discontinuously outlining an area 2.3 m x 1-1.25 m.
15. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**

IMACS ENCODING FORM

Encoder's Name _____

Winston Hurst

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State Site Number

12

NW

SE

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Merid.

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Agency Report Number

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53,0,5

Elevation

11

1,2

6,5,1,2,6,0

4,1,5,0,0,0,0

Zone

Eastings

Northings

14

M,C,G,R,A,C,K,E,N

SPRING

UT

USGS Map

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ST

Owner

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Forest Dist./Park

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Loc. Curated Materials

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Water: distance/type

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Misc. Text, Site Name

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Prehistoric Artifacts

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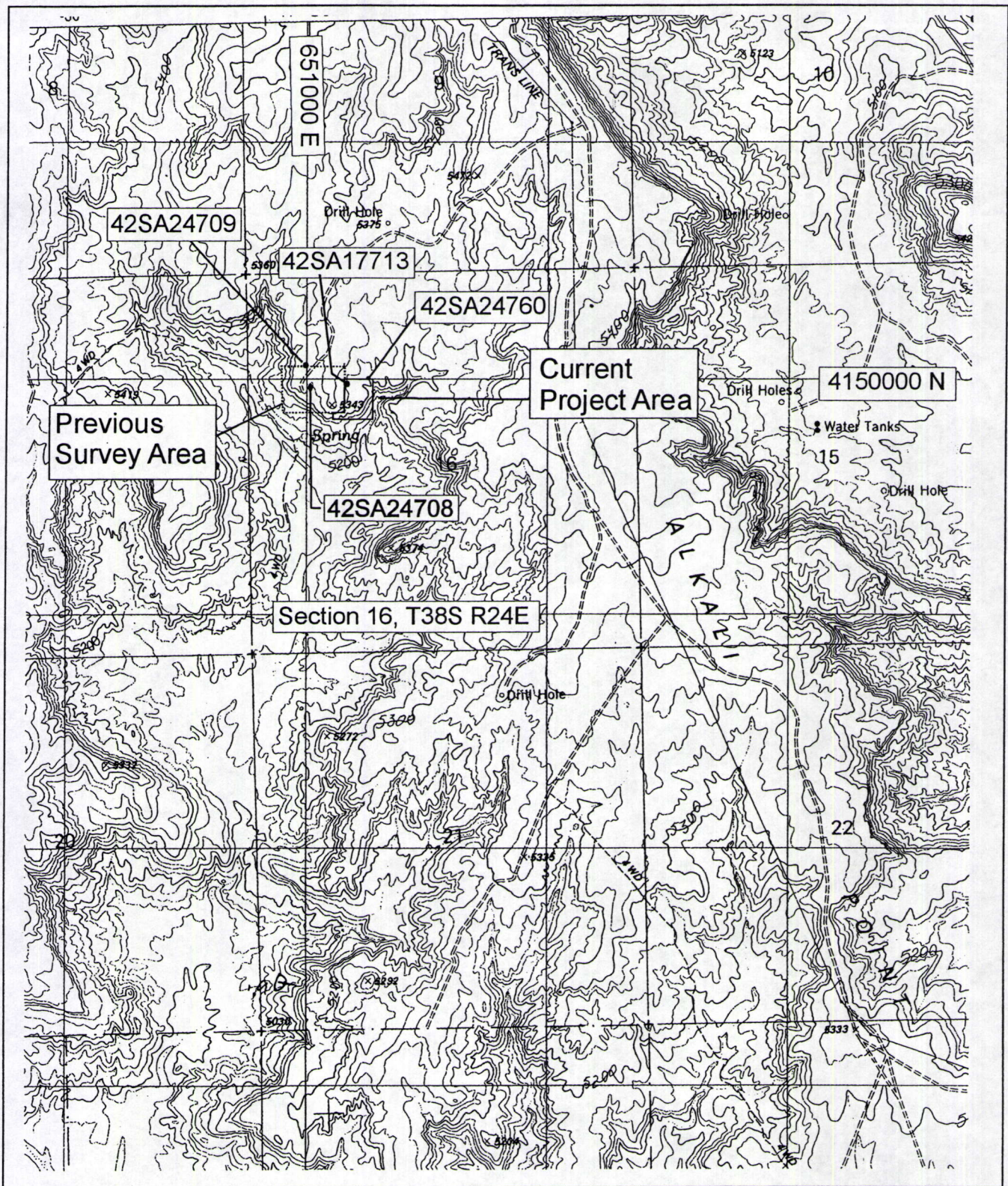
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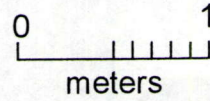


(USGS McCracken Spring, Utah 7.5' quadrangle)

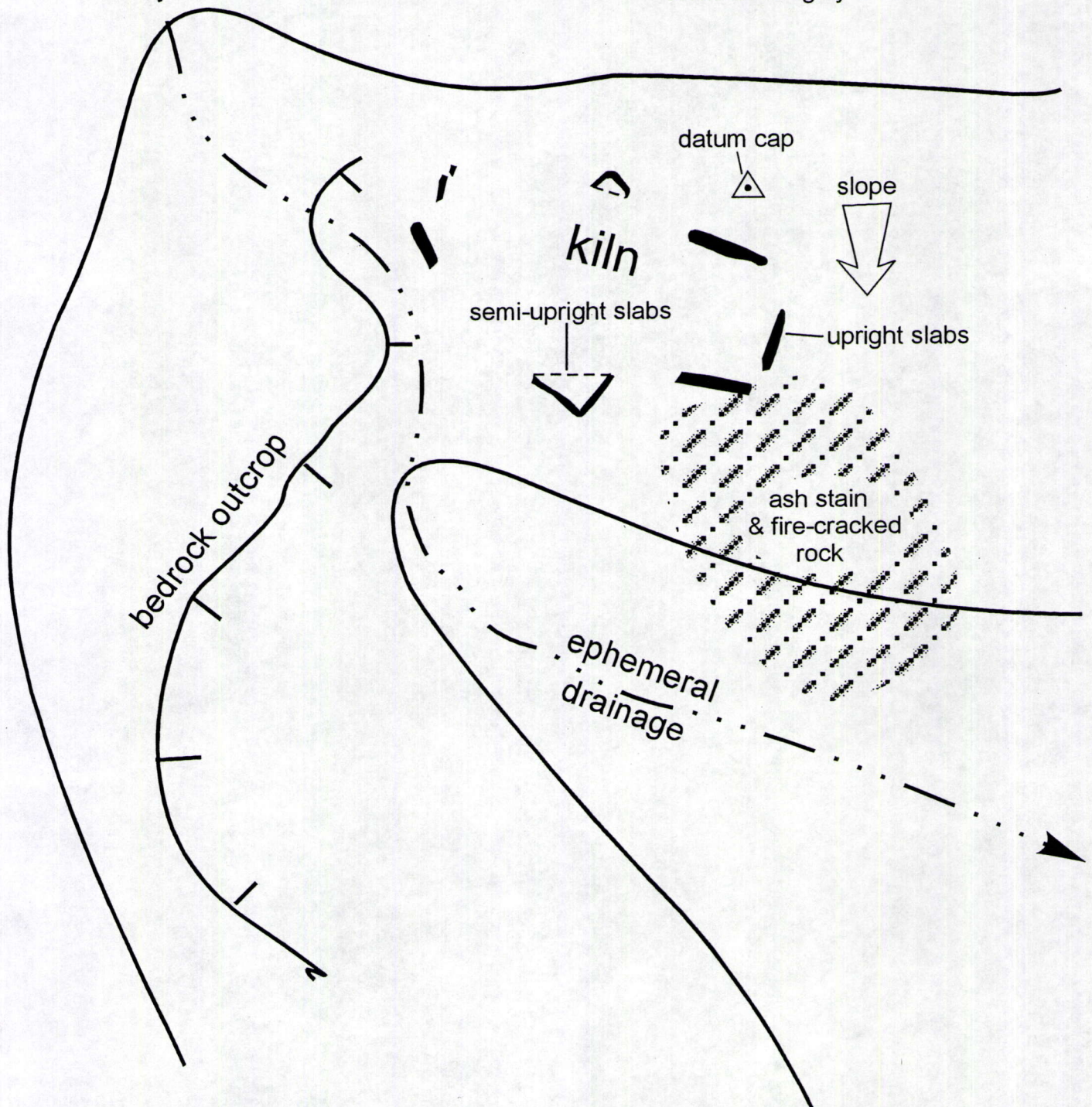
42SA24760

10/29/2001

W. Hurst



contours roughly 1 m



DATE _____ NO. _____
TITLE _____



42SA24760, closer view, north-northeast.

Photo-Saver
Made in U.S.A.

vue-all
MUSEUM QUALITY
ARCHIVAL

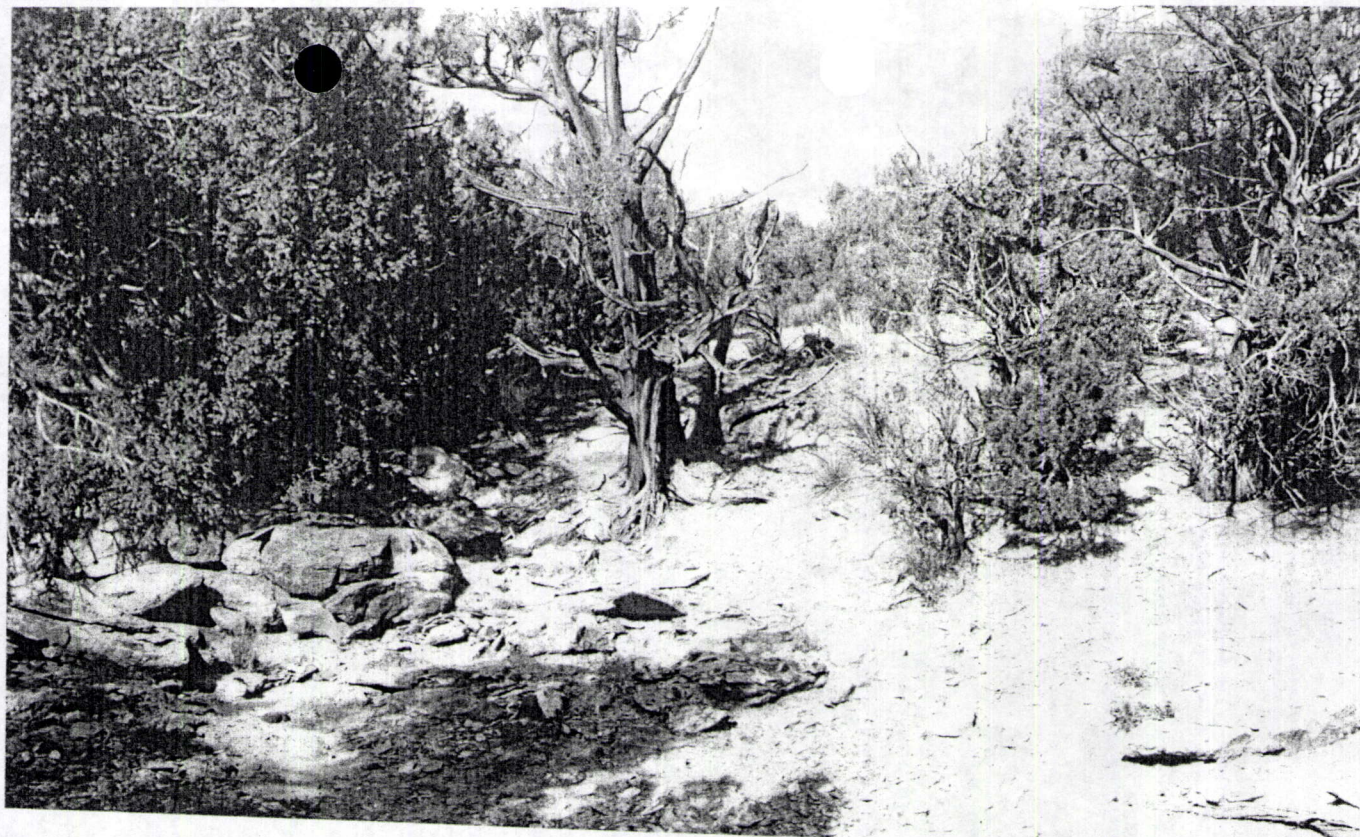


42SA24760, still closer view of kiln.

DATE

NO.

TITLE



42SA24760, general view looking north-northwest. Clipboard at center marks center of kiln feature. Ash stain and FCR scatter is at lower right between the feature and the camera.

Photo-Saver

Made in U.S.A.

MUSEUM QUALITY
vue-all
ARCHIVAL



42SA24760, closer view looking north-northeast. Top of clipboard at center of feature is oriented north, ash stain and FCR scatter at lower right.